

**[PRICE \$2½ PER MONTH.]**

## INTIMATIONS.

Lading will be countersigned by  
 H. KLABER & Co.,  
 Agents.  
 Hongkong, 17th October, 1877. [1554]



## NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that I have placed Mr. R. CHATTERTON WILCOX in Charge of the Printing and Publishing Business carried on at the Daily Press Office from this date, and it is further notified that Mr. WILCOX has entered into an Agreement with me as Lessee of that Business, to commence on the 1st January, 1878.

YORICK JONES MURROW,  
by his Attorneys  
WM. PUSTAT & Co.  
Hongkong, 7th November, 1877.

## NOTICE.

A. S. WATSON & CO.  
FAMILY AND DISPENSING  
CHEMISTS.  
By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor and His Royal Highness the DUKE OF EDINBURGH.  
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS.  
PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.  
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIERS.  
And  
AERATED WATER MAKERS.  
SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED.  
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON & CO., or HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

## DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 31st October, the wife of Inspector SWANSON, of a Daughter.  
On the 28th October, at St. John's Cathedral, Hongkong, by the Rev. John Henderson, Rector of the Scotch Church, William WILSON, 30 years of age, son of Mr. WILSON, of the firm of Messrs. WILSON & Co., of Canton Road, London.  
On the 28th October, at a few days' illness, GEORGE URBANUS SANDS, of New York, U.S.A., aged 52 years.  
On the 28th October, at Hongkong, Edward, son of Mr. J. G. WATSON, of the firm of Messrs. WATSON & Co., of Canton Road, London.  
On the 28th October, at Hongkong, Patrick DUNN, Sergeant, Municipal Police, and late of the Labuan Armed Police Force, aged 42.

## NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.  
All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

## The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 8th, 1877.

FAMINE has at various times played a conspicuous part in reducing the number of the inhabitants of the over-populated countries of Asia. Indeed it has by some people grown to be regarded as a natural check upon the undue increase of the population. Believers in the theory of the survival of the fittest, would even urge that an occasional famine is a blessing in disguise, as it thins down the numbers and renders the struggle to exist less keen. But the question is, in the first place, how far these dreadful famines are necessary for such a purpose, and, in the second place, how far they are preventable by the Governments of the countries in which they occur. Now it will be admitted by all sensible people that a country may suffer from a too redundant population. Unless an outlet is found for the surplus, the whole of the inhabitants must necessarily find it harder work to make the earth yield them a subsistence. This fact has been amply exemplified in numberless cases. Abundant illustrations of it can be found in China, where although they live with wonderful economy, the teeming multitudes can in some districts scarcely with the severest labour and most careful cultivation—make the soil, even in good seasons, produce sufficient for their bare wants. But the remedy is not really so far to seek: Emigration will solve the problem, if the Chinese would but try it on a large and systematic scale. For many years to come it would not even be necessary for the Sons of Han to go beyond the bounds of the Central Kingdom. China proper is not really, in proportion to her size, more densely populated than the United Kingdom; while the outlying territories are for the most part very sparsely peopled. The provinces of Yunnan and Kweichow are woefully in want of people to develop their resources, while many other parts are but scantily inhabited. Manchuria and Mongolia can absorb several millions, Formosa is still but half settled, and beyond the bounds of the Empire there are fields for Chinese emigration in Peru, Brazil, the Pacific Islands, New Guinea, North Australia, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and other countries. Hitherto Chinese emigration has been conducted on a very small scale and has been of a spasmodic character. Moreover it has always been confined to the male sex, and has never been of a permanent character. The Chinese emigrant, merely leaves his country in quest of a fortune, and as soon as he obtains what will suffice to ensure his independence in his native land he returns to his home. Something more than this is wanted if the country is to be relieved of its superabundant stock of humanity.

Again, are these famines unavoidable? By what are they caused? Primarily by prolonged droughts, which entail failure of the crops. These droughts are terrible things, and seemingly beyond the power of finite man to rectify. The heavens are for long weeks like brass, the eagerly expected clouds will not gather, the intense heat scorches up the vegetation, the parched ground cracks, the rivers become a succession of shallow water holes, muddy and unwholesome, the grain fails to fill, and the thousands whose subsistence for the next season is all staked upon that failing crop have nothing to hope for, but starvation, unless help from outside reaches them. But what causes these droughts? Scientific men assure us that in most countries they have been rendered frequent by the process of deforestation, which has been so ruthlessly and suicidally carried on. And this doctrine we are strongly inclined to endorse, for wherever

full and consequent falling off in the fertility of the soil has been noticed. In China, where the timber has been used for firewood forages with little attempt to renew the stock, droughts have become increasingly frequent. Last year thousands perished from starvation in Shanai, Chihli, and Shantung; this winter, it is prophesied that tens of thousands must die of hunger unless strenuous efforts are made to relieve them. Bad as was the prospect last winter, it is now infinitely worse. Over a territory containing a much larger population than that of Great Britain a more dreadful famine is impending than that which caused such fearful suffering and misery in Shantung last year. Then substantial aid was rendered by the British and foreign communities in China; now the former have to help their fellow subjects in India who are suffering from the same cause. The British people have responded nobly to the cry from India. The Mission House Foundation is rapidly approaching half a million sterling, and subscriptions are being raised in nearly every part of Queen Victoria's dominions for the relief of the sufferers. Happily rain has now fallen in India, the drought has been faced, and it is possible that by-and-by British benevolence can be again turned towards China. The foreign residents will also no doubt, as they did last year, lend generous assistance. Still the distress will be too great for foreign generosity alone to grapple with. The Chinese who can afford to contribute must be liberal also, and their Government must bestir itself to prevent the distress from assuming the threatened appalling dimensions. Unless some strenuous efforts are put forth to relieve the famishing millions, who can say that they may not be prompted by despair to make a descent upon the provinces to the south and commence a disastrous internecine war for food?

A goodly sum has been collected by the Free Press of this colony on behalf of the sufferers by famine in India.

We hear that a banquet will be held under the auspices of the London Grand Lodge of Hongkong Freemasons to celebrate St. John's Day.

Last night a farewell dinner was given to Admiral Ryder and Captain Colomb on board the *Adriatic*. The ship was illuminated in the course of the evening.

The steamer *Charlton*, from Cooktown, is expected to arrive here on or about Monday next. We hear that on her trip down she will call at Port Darwin, in the Northern Territory.

The grouting sailing match of the Hongkong Yacht Club will take place on Saturday next, at sea, starting from the Coalwharf at Kowloon over the usual course. The prizes are \$20 and \$10, for which there are four entries.

The mail from Yokohama brought the information that Mr. Taro Ando, the Japanese Vice-Consul at this port, has been made Consul by his Government. All who are acquainted with Mr. Ando will be glad to hear of his promotion.

The new tug-boat which recently arrived here per *Glenn*, for Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, has had her engine put into her by one of the engineers of the *Glenn* who remained here for that purpose, and is now ready for work. She has been named the *Ando*.

Amongst the passengers for England by the P. and O. steamship *Nizam*, we notice the names of Admiral A. P. Ryder and Captain P. H. Colomb; also Captain H. N. Hipsley, late commander of the *Horat*, superseded on his promotion to rank.

Yesterday afternoon a rowing match took place between two boats belonging to the *Adriatic* and the *Victor Emanuel*, over a three mile course. The *Victor Emanuel* was manned by Chinese, and the *Adriatic* by Europeans; the former winning easily in 25 min.

The Superintendent of the Eastern Extension Australasia and China Telegraph Company, informs us that the repairs to the Company's Suez-Panama cable were completed last evening, so that the cable route to India, Europe, and America, and Singapore, is again open for the transmission of telegrams.

The Scotch residents intend celebrating St. Andrew's Day by giving a ball at the City Hall, instead of by a dinner as last year; thus affording ladies an opportunity of participating in the enjoyment of the festival. Subscription lists are to be seen at the Hongkong Club, Messrs. G. F. Falconer & Co., and Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co.

We have to remind our readers that the amateur concert in aid of the Indian Fund Relief will take place to-morrow at St. Andrew's Hall, City Hall. The programme is a capital one, and lovers of music may consider it well worth the trouble of attending. The concert is given in aid of the Indian Fund Relief, and the sympathy of all His Excellency the Governor and Mrs. Hume are expected to be present.

It is probable (says the *Japan Mail*) that either a Japanese play in all its integrity is to be put on the stage, or some French play, the original of which is the *Japan Mail*, has been forwarded to a French firm at Yokohama to purchase a number of the finest stage dresses that can be procured, and other theatrical appliances, such as scenery, costumes, and illustrations of the setting of a Japanese stage and the accessories required.

## SUPREME COURT.

November 7th.

## SUMMARY JUDICEMENT.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE SNOWDEN.  
INGLIS V. ASHURN, \$355.—This case, claim for wages as second mate and boatman on the ship *Beving Star*, was heard on Tuesday, and on the grounds that a seaman is entitled to his wages, although sick on board, and that the captain's defence of incompetency fell through, as he had kept the plaintiff on board ten days in the harbour before sailing—Judgment for plaintiff.

CHONG A-PAI V. BURMEISTER, \$25.—His Lordship gave judgment in this case for the plaintiff. The claim was for wages due on the German ship *Maria*, and the defence set up was that the money had been paid. His Lordship said that from the evidence he considered the \$25 had never been paid. Judgment for the plaintiff.

BOTTELO V. HO AKCO, \$500.—Lieutenant McCallum, R.E., sat with the Judge as assessor. Mr. Francis was for the plaintiff, and Mr. Botello for the defendant. The claim was for damages by trespass. The plaintiff is in possession of two-thirds of land No. 400, and on this lot there is a house No. 7, Rosario street, in which the defendant has been residing for some time. An angle of the wall of the house No. 7, Rosario street, falling back a little, and in that angle a flight of steps runs down to the basement. Defendant is in possession of the basement, and has pulled down a portion of the wall and cut into plaintiff's steps, and at the time the action was commenced was claiming as of right the use of the steps. The area of defendant's lot is, according to plaintiff's contention, 90 feet north and south and 63 feet east and west. The area originally was 100 feet north and south, and 63 feet east and west, but according to title deeds by which the original holder signed over a strip of ground 10 feet long by 3 feet wide remained with him. It was in respect to this piece of ground that the present case arose. The defendant pleaded that the land was his, and that he had purchased the ground, and that the ownership of the ground, the case was not concluded at the rising of the court, and was adjourned until Saturday. The injunction of the plaintiff obtained last week was dissolved.

## POLICE COURT.

November 7th.

## BEFORE JAMES BURNELL, Esq.

CHAN A-PAI was charged with gambling. P.C. \$35 said about ten minutes to six last night he found the prisoner playing at dice with a number of others at the Recreation Ground. He was previously convicted of gambling. The prisoner was sentenced to one month's imprisonment with hard labour.

ALFRED LAURENCE was charged with stealing a bed-cloth, a bag, and other effects. Hung A-PAI said he was employed in the Hop-wo passage boat plying between Hongkong and Yow-mah-tee. This morning the boat was lying at the wharf at Hongkong, and the prisoner came on board the boat. He noticed him go into the cabin. Prisoner took his bed-cloth, came on deck, and ran on shore. Witness pursued him, and he fled. He was going to Yow-mah-tee. On the way to the station he dropped a sheet, the same as produced. It belonged to witness.

Police constable 212 said this morning he was on duty at the P.R. He noticed the prisoner running, being pursued by the last witness. He stopped him. He saw him drop the sheet and bag, and other effects.

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Among the ignorant people of the lower classes in the capital and country, the most ridiculous and superstitious notions are current, some of which are of a very ancient date. One of the most prevalent is the belief in the evil spirits of the dead, who are supposed to haunt the living, and to cause them to suffer from various diseases. This belief is so deeply rooted in the minds of the people, that it is almost impossible to eradicate it. It is, however, a very dangerous superstition, as it leads to the most absurd and cruel practices. For example, it is not uncommon to find a person who is suffering from a disease, being treated by a quack, who claims to be able to drive the evil spirits out of the patient. The patient is then subjected to a series of cruel and painful treatments, which often result in his death. This is a very common occurrence in the lower classes, and it is a great pity that the authorities do not take more steps to suppress such practices.

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